

Testimony HB1503

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Testimony in Support for HB1503

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee, we submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

Mr. Chairman,

We at DRC favor local control and support keeping foreign ownership out of agriculture in North Dakota. But we would also like to ensure that we take this a step further and make sure that value added agriculture is considered when writing these bills. After reviewing this with HB1135 we believe that these bills should be passed together in order to ensure the most protection for our local farmers and grain elevators.

The language on this bill may be somewhat problematic on its own and there may be several contradictions with 1135 on the date of effectiveness, and the language regarding permanent aliens. On Line 20 of page one it states that all permanent residents or aliens would have to divest ownership interest in real property, but on page 2 lines 8-14 it clearly states that there is an exception to the rule of ownership in columns a. and b. DRC would recommend all land purchases after July of 2020 instead of 2023, to review any land purchases previously made and cleaning up the contradictions.

We recommend a DO PASS as long as it is passed with HB1135. Thank you for your time and consideration.